

After reviewing all of the "Amateur Radio Restructuring" comments filed since the updating of the international rules, it seems that the most balanced proposals are the ARRL and NCVEC (RM-10787) proposals.

I disagree with the rationale, however on the NCVEC (RM-10787) proposal for the "Communicator" class license. I feel that disallowing homebrew equipment in this class goes counter to the intended purpose of amateur radio.

I, however, agree with all aspects of the ARRL RM-10867 proposal, except for one: Retention of the 5 WPM testing requirement of Morse Code.

Since the original intent of the Morse Code testing goes back to the days when the US government and other entities who shared frequencies with amateurs used PRIMARILY that mode, it was required so that amateurs could vacate such shared frequencies in case they were needed for other purposes.

In 2004, almost no Morse is used by any commercial or governmental entity except for special purposes that have no bearing on the amateur allocations.

As such, supporting continuation of Morse testing is unnecessary, and will continue the debate in the Amateur community over such testing ad naseum. As long as this not resolved by the elimination the requirement, the FCC will be innundated by "restructuring" proposals in the future.

Since Morse testing is an unnecessary requirement in today's communication environment, why continue it?

Other than the Morse requirement, I believe that the ARRL's proposal is the most balanced proposal, and gets the FCC to it's stated goals in the 2000 review.

In summary, all other proposals on restructuring should be disapproved, and the ARRL proposal should become the final one-- with the exception that the Morse testing requirement should be eliminated for ALL license classes.

By the way, there are many talented technical people I work with and have worked with in the past that simply do not want to learn Morse code but who would otherwise become Amateur operators. Since the service is supposed to both be educational and to train a talented pool of operators, the Morse requirement has over the history of Amateur Radio been the biggest impediment to getting many more techincally qualified people.

I will agree that learning the minimum 5 WPM code is not that difficult. However, many people simply do not want to do it. They see no reason in the 21st century to do this. And from a regulatory standpoint, there is no reason they should be forced to anymore.

Frederick M. Spinner, W0FMS
Extra Class licensee, BSEE